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# Agri-News

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## Tennessee Nursery Production Measured at \$124 Million

Tennessee's first Nursery Production Survey revealed that for nursery operations with sales of \$100,000 or more during 2000, the gross value of sales for nine surveyed categories totaled \$124 million. Tennessee ranked sixth in total gross sales of the country's top 17 nursery producing states selected for this first multi-state survey. Deciduous shade trees accounted for 27 percent of the total, followed by deciduous flowering trees at 22 percent, and propagation material at 14 percent.

All nursery operations with sales over \$10,000 totaled 352. Those firms with sales of \$100,000 or greater numbered 170, while those with gross sales over \$1 million totaled 36. The 352 nurseries reported production area of 1.32 billion square feet, or just over 30 thousand acres.

The nine nursery categories surveyed were: broadleaf evergreens, coniferous evergreens, deciduous shade trees, deciduous flowering trees, deciduous shrubs and other ornamentals, fruit and nut plants, Christmas trees (cut and to be cut), transplants for commercial truck crop production, and propagation material.

Deciduous shade trees accounted for \$33.9 million in gross sales during 2000, or 27 percent of the total. Trees included were ash, birch, honey locust, maples, oak, poplar, sweet gum, willow, and other deciduous shade trees. Tennessee was the fourth leading state in sales, accounting for 8 percent of the total dollars.

Deciduous flowering trees sales were the second largest category at just over \$27.0 million, or 22 percent. Types of trees included were amelanchier, ornamental pear, crabapple, crapemyrtle, dogwood, redbud, magnolia, ornamental cherry, ornamental plum, and other deciduous flowering trees. Tennessee followed California and Oregon as the third largest state with 12 percent of the total gross sales.

Propagation material or lining-out stock transactions totaled \$17.1 million, or 14 percent of the survey total. Propagative material included root stock, lining-out stock, seedlings, tissue culture, and other propagation. Tennessee accounted for 5 percent of the total sales, ranking number seven of the surveyed states. Deciduous shrubs and other ornamentals accounted for \$14.3 million in gross sales during 2000, or 12 percent of the total. Plants included in this category were buddleias, hibiscus, hydrangeas, lilacs, other deciduous shrubs, ground covers, other vines and ornamentals.

Broadleaf evergreen sales were the fifth largest category at slightly under \$14.3, or 12 percent. This grouping includes azalea, boxwood, euonymus, holly, magnolia, and other broadleaf evergreen plants. Coniferous evergreen sales totaled \$10.3 million, or 8 percent, of the State total. Arborvitae, balled and burlapped Christmas trees, cedar, fir, pine, and other coniferous evergreens made up this category.

Fruit and nut plant gross sales totaled \$6.8 million, or 5 percent of the total. This category included citrus and subtropical fruit trees, deciduous fruit and nut trees, grapevines, other small fruit plants, and other fruit and nut trees. Cut and to be cut Christmas trees accounted for \$383 thousand of the total sales. This breakout included douglas fir, fraser fir, scotch pine, white pine, and other varieties.

For a complete copy of the *Nursery Crops 2000 Summary* released on August 16, 2001, please visit our website at [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/).